

This is a picture of what you can see all throughout Fargo, ND. They have Neighborhood Watch groups to patrol to make sure there is no seepage. If there is a place that needs to be built up, they put out a call and people turn up just like this. You can see hundreds of people here working to sandbag to try to defend their homes and defend their neighborhoods.

The thing that has kind of escaped the attention of the national media but which is so striking is, this flood threat is all across North Dakota, from the far western part of the State all across to eastern North Dakota and the Red River Valley. The Red River Valley gets most of the attention, but we landed in Valley City on Friday and in Valley City—no, this was on Saturday—the snow around the airport was 10 feet high. That is the Cheyenne River Valley. The Cheyenne River Valley will crest later than the Red. But they are anticipating record crest levels.

Again, we went to a place where they have the Winter Show, in Valley City, ND. It is a big structure. There are hundreds of volunteers there working around the clock. This is from my hometown, the Bismarck Tribune, Bismarck, ND, with the headline, simply “Battered,” “Area Hit Hard by a 1-2 Punch.” That was flooding and a blizzard; 12 to 18 inches of snow hit my hometown last week.

Last night we got another major winter storm. I am told more than 10 inches of snow hit last night. We were faced with an immediate threat of flooding.

Here you can see two guys wading. This is ice. They have broken through the ice in their hip waders, and this is all water. They are going to check on the home of a couple to make sure they are safe.

This is the kind of flooding that was in my hometown. Here is a canoe, people going from one house to another in a canoe.

It is hard to fully appreciate the magnitude of this. We have had massive snowfall in places in the State, three times average, of course leading to these record floods. We have never seen the Red River at this height before in recorded history. Never before in recorded history has it been this high.

I want to say to people who are watching, it is inspirational to see these communities come together, to work together in an all-out effort to save their homes, to save their communities. I could not be more proud of the people of North Dakota. Boy, faced with threat, they have absolutely demonstrated what I think are heroic qualities.

I was pleased the President acknowledged this in his weekend address and talked about what this demonstrates about the human spirit. Honestly, you have to be there to fully appreciate what I am talking about.

We are thinking about our friends and neighbors and families back home,

wishing them the very best as this flood fight continues. The great news is the river is going down, at least the Red is going down. But we have to contend with this major winter storm that is going to hit tonight, and we also have to contend with something nobody can predict—how fast things will warm up. If it warms up too fast that water out there is going to head for the river. We know we ought to keep up our guard, and that is what everybody intends to do.

I also want to acknowledge the local leadership: Mayor Walaker, Deputy Mayor Tim Mahoney—what outstanding leadership they are providing in that community. These guys are not working any 8-hour days. It is round the clock and it could not be better. They are out there urging their citizenry on. They have said: If we go down, we are going to go down swinging.

I tell you, I don't think they are going to go down. I think they are going to win.

HONORING OUR ARMED FORCES

CORPORAL MICHAEL OUELLETTE

Mr. GREGG. I rise this morning on behalf of Kathy and myself to express our deepest sympathies to the family of CPL Michael Ouellette. Corporal Ouellette died in Afghanistan last week, and his funeral is today. I have spoken with his mother, and, of course, he was an exceptional individual. These young men who serve us in the military are all exceptional. He served two tours of duty in Iraq, was decorated, and then went to Afghanistan to serve again.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire and our Nation, I thank his parents for having raised such an extraordinary child. We appreciate and thank them for the service he has given this Nation, and we obviously express our deepest concern during this extremely difficult period.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, I wish to say on behalf of the people I represent that we, too, send our condolences to the family of the soldier who was lost. My State has suffered many losses in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we understand the extraordinary sacrifice these families make. We wish to say to the people of New Hampshire, and especially the family of the soldier, that our thoughts and prayers are with them as well.

AMENDMENTS TO REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I wish to inform all Senators that on Friday, March 27, 2009, the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted amendments to the following regulations:

Regulations Governing Allocation and Acquisition of Equipment for Senators, Com-

mittees, Officers, and Employees of the United States Senate;

Smoking Policy—Rule X, Rules for Regulation of Senate Wing;

Ticket Preparation Fees—Senate Travel Regulations;

Regulations Governing Rates Payable to Commercial Reporting Firms for Preparation of Transcripts of Hearings in the Senate;

Signature/Documentation Provisions—Regulations Governing Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts; and Advance Payment Regulations.

These regulations as amended are effective immediately.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a document summarizing these updates and the text of the regulations as amended be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

SUMMARIES OF PROPOSED AMENDED REGULATIONS

(1) Regulations Governing Allocation and Acquisition of Equipment for Senators, Committees, Officers, and Employees of the United States Senate

The updated regulations change the manner by which offices are provided computer and office equipment. Offices will be given a single economic allocation to purchase supported computer and office equipment. This will ensure that offices are better equipped in a manner that is “revenue neutral” to the Senate. The regulations ensure that each employee or detailee gets one workstation and access to appropriate office equipment.

(2) Smoking Policy—Rule X, Rules for Regulation of Senate Wing

The limited exception of approved indoor smoking space in the Senate Wing of the Capitol and the Senate Office Buildings has been removed due to the closing of all indoor smoking rooms under the control of the Rules Committee. The proposed text of Rule X deletes the exception for smoking rooms in the Senate that no longer exist.

(3) Ticket Preparation Fees—Senate Travel Regulations

The proposed amendment removes the dollar amount from the Senate Travel Regulations and authorizes the Rules Committee to set a rate for ticket preparation fees. This will permit the periodic adjustment of the fee by the Rules Committee without necessitating a change in the regulations.

(4) Regulations Governing Rates Payable to Commercial Reporting Firms for Preparation of Transcripts of Hearings in the Senate

These regulations were last updated in 1990 and include reimbursement to transcription companies that are well below market rate. The proposed amended regulations authorize the Rules Committee to publish and periodically update a schedule of reimbursement rates for transcription services.

(5) Signature/Documentation Provisions—Regulations Governing Senators' Official Personnel and Office Expense Accounts

The provisions for authorized signature(s) were originally adopted in 1979 and amended in 1992 to permit a designated staff member to certify vouchers and the Senator to approve them. An amendment in 2003 increased the threshold of the receipt amount to \$50. However, the 2003 amendment used the 1979 version of the regulations instead of the 1992 updated version. The proposed change will update the signature/documentation provisions to include the 1979, 1992, and 2003 amendments, in accordance with the current practices used throughout the Senate. If approved, this regulation will be reprinted in